

save souls and develop the unselfish Christ life in the church? "Then cry aloud, spare not, but tell *my* people *their* sins and the house of Jacob *its* transgressions." Italics mine. Preach to men for their good. Tell them of their responsibilities before God, stir and make uneasy their consciences and affections, and you will cause them to be more earnest, devoted, consecrated and liberal.

One trouble with many churches is this. Unless they can get a preacher to suit everybody they will do without one. I knew of churches fifteen years ago who wanted a revival meeting, provided they could get a certain preacher to conduct it. The man could not be had and no revival up to date.

Some must have a man with up to date social qualities. If such an one can not be had, the church can go to smash and sinners go unsaved. Sociability is good, but faithfulness to Christ and his truth is better. Too much of our social life is affected, and hence is hypocritical. While we should be zealous to win souls for Christ we should not lose sight of the fact that he who *truly* accepts Christ accepts Christ principles.

Very often the chief question is, Who can we get that will be popular with the outsiders? To seek the world's enmity would be very unwise, but at least not more so than to seek its favor. "Buy the truth and sell it not," holds as good today as it did in Solomon's day. To simply humor men into the church means that you will have to continue humoring them to keep them in. Men cannot be saved until they become convicted of sin. And that too, to the extent, not simply that they are just little bits of sinners, but *great big ones*. The biggest of all. God wants no reservation along the line of unselfishness and humility. Again Jesus said to his disciples, "Ye are the light of the world." Light is of little use unless it is in the lead. Let the light of Christ lead, and let those who are in darkness follow. It is unmanly to court the world's popularity. O thou church of the living God, look about thee for men of Daniel's stamp. Say to the world, as followed by Jesus, we are in the right, and have no compromise to offer. Union with us means that *you* must come all the way, and unreservedly acknowledge that you are a sinner, and utterly helpless without a Savior. The world mocked, scorned and ridiculed all the godly characters of the Bible. Let it treat you likewise if it wants to. But stand thou solid for the right.

Some churches want a revivalist. They measure the preacher's fitness and capacity by his success in gaining numbers. Such people would ignore one of the greatest preachers in human history,—old father Noah, who preached one hundred and twenty years without gaining a single convert outside his own family. Who will say that Noah was not a success?

Very many churches want only young preachers. Some years ago, while at National conference, quite a number of Breth-

ren inquired of me whether I knew of available young preachers. Some time ago the remark was made to a preacher, "Mr. — you are now about forty-five years old. You ought to study medicine now. People want young preachers, but old doctors." The remark was made in fun but embodies much solid fact. Men are more interested in bodily than in soul health. What soul doctor could dupe people in this enlightened country for selfish purposes, like that "Divine healing" fraud of Chicago does? Ah, men, verily, are carnal.

I feel proud of the young preachers in the Brethren church. They average high, in point of intellectual, moral, social and spiritual character. I wish them God speed. I pray for them. But to dead list hoary heads and wrinkled brows where spiritual and mental vigor are retained, is, to say in the least, unchristian, cruel and discourteous. And is detrimental to the cause of Christ.

When I was but a mere lad I used to accompany my mother to her church, which numbered from twelve to fifteen hundred members. The old pastor was near four score years old; and had preached for that congregation fifty-five years. It was a country church at that. Can churches of today make a better showing than that? There was general sorrow over a whole township of people when old Pastor Pump was dead. Old men are sought for in other grave and responsible professions in life. Why should the simple gospel ministry be an exception?

A church may have a hobby; and of course the preacher must have his orthodoxy tested along the line of that special hobby. Should he prove broad minded enough not to ride hobby horses, he is not wanted. I have known churches to do without a pastor, because of minority rule. A few object, and the majority yields for peace sake. Pardon me for saying that this is crying peace, peace when there is no *real* peace.

Some churches must have a smart preacher. A brother once said to me, "We must have a smart preacher, because another denomination near us has such a smart man, and we must compete or lose prestige." David said, addressing God, "All our help must come from thee." "Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord." O for more faith and deeper consecration in God. These smart embellishments are often harmful to true spiritual life.

Again, some churches would rather do without a preacher than not have an up to date theological graduate. I would not disparage theological studies, but when I find that many of the most able, efficient, eloquent and spiritual preachers of both ancient and modern times, were men who had but little theological training, I realize that such a conclusion is a mistake. In modern times, none have excelled Spurgeon, Moody and Jones. What we mostly need is men full of the Holy Spirit. Scholastic attainments are helpful to the preacher, but of themselves are flat. I have been amused how

"distance lends enchantment" in calling preachers. I know of at least four western preachers in one eastern state, and the West is hungry for eastern men. To some extent this exchange may be proper; but I believe it is overdone.

I shall now touch upon a rather delicate point. I ask forbearance. I ask to be heard without prejudice. I believe our method along the line of ministerial distribution is faulty. Very few congregations, if any, are qualified to vote intelligently on a pastor. Many are not prayerful enough, and follow the spirit and methods of the politician. In some congregations the bulk of the membership are comparative children, and lack in judgment. Their voting is based on their likes and dislikes. Very often the more giddy preacher gets the preference. Our congregationalism has assumed to ultra a form. I have noticed that in the Christian church, in the Baptist church, and in the Brethren church the same trouble obtains. In the M. E. and in the U. B. churches, where the preachers are not their own, all congregations are supplied with preaching, and all their preachers are at work. I am happy to realize that a leaven is at work in the Brethren church, which in course of time will bring about a similar method, and when no longer the cry of pastorless churches will be heard in the land.

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#### HOW THE CONGREGATION MAY AID THE PASTOR

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In entering upon the discussion of this subject we realize that it is a very practical one. The relation of pastor and people is one begotten of God, and therefore, is heaven born. God has ordained that there should be pastors who should serve his people, in administering to their spiritual wants. So in the organization of the church there must needs be pastors. The church cannot well succeed without the aid of the pastor, neither can the pastor well succeed without the aid of the congregation. Because equally alike they are dependent for success the one on the other. Recognizing the co operation of the pastor and people, the congregation should never call a pastor that they could not co operate with. In selecting a pastor care should be used that they select such an one as is approved, or has proved himself to be a workman that needeth not to be ashamed and then by all means stand by the subject of your choice, and let him know that you appreciate his work. First by your regular attendance at worship. That is how you can aid the pastor; not by absenting yourself from the church services. The pastor needs your co-operation in his work. Do not remain away from the preaching, the Sunday school, the prayer meeting, the business meeting, and the communion meetings. Staying away from these does not aid the pastor, no never, and whenever you remain away from these means of grace, you retard